

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08254 101306Z
ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 8254

EMO. 11652/: N/A
TAGS: CASC (GREENBERG, HAROLD PPT: G945651)
SUBJECT: W/W: DETENTION AT SHEREMET'YEVO AIRPORT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5248 (B) MOSCOW 7566 (C) LENINGRAD 0640

1. EMBOFF RECEIVED NON-PAPER DURING CALL ON MFA
USA DIVISION COUNSELOR I.V. TRIFONOV JUNE 8 AT LATTER'S
REQUEST, PROTESTING THREE INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. CITI-
ZENS AT MOSCOW'S SHEREMET'YEVO AIRPORT. (COPY OF NON-PAPER
BEING POUCHED.) THE PAPER REPORTED THAT
AMCITS MR AND MRS STEVEN SALTZMAN WRE
PREVENTED FROM ENTERING THE USSR, AFTER SOVIET
CUSTOMS INSPECTION REVEALED THAT THE SALTZMANS WERE
ATTEMPTING TO BRING INTO THE SOVIET UNION ZIONIST
LITERATURE WHICH THEY INTENDED TO DISTRIBUTE AMONG
SOVIET JEWS. (THE SALTZMANS NEVER CONTACTED EMBASSY
DURING DETENTION.) THE SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVED MR
AND MRS ARNOLD SILVERS (REPORTED IN REFTEL (A)).
THE NON-PAPER STATED THAT THE SILVERS WERE ATTEMPTING
TO BRING A SIZEABLE QUANTITY OF SLANDEROUS LITERATURE
INTO THE SOVIET UNION. IN BOTH CASES THE "OB-
JECTIONABLE" MATERIAL WAS CONFISCATED. IN THE FINAL
INCIDENT, REPORTED BELOW, MENTION IS MADE IN THE NON-PAPER
OF AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO WAS PRESENT DURING
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THE SEARCH. WHEN ASKED BY EMBOFF WHO THE OFFICER
WAS, TRIFONOV REPLIED "CONSULAR OFFICER PETERSON".
THE NON-PAPER STRONGLY PROTESTED ALL THE INCIDENTS
AND REQUESTED THE AMERICAN SIDE TO PREVENT SUCH
MISCONDUCT BY AMERICAN TOURISTS, AND NOTED THAT
SUCH ACTS ARE CLEARLY IN VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI
AGREEMENT.

3. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF DETENTION OF
AMCITS RABBI AND MRS HAROLD GREENBERG
AT SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT ON MAY 29.

4. CONSOFF WAS CALLED AT 0930 HOURS BY EMBASSY
MSG AND TOLD THAT TWO AMCITS WERE BEING DETAINED AT

AIRPORT. MSG REPORTED THAT SY OFFICER HAD PHONED
FROM AIRPORT AND REPORTED THAT HE WAS WITNESSING
SCENE IN WHICH AMCITS WERE BEING SEARCHED BY CUSTOMS
OFFICIALS AND THEY WERE CALLING OUT TO ANYONE NEARBY
TO CALL THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. AMCITS WERE NOT BEING
PERMITTED TO CALL EMBASSY. CONSOFF ARRIVED AT
AIRPORT AT 1015 HOURS AND LEARNED THAT RABBI AND
MRS GREENBERG HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM TAKING CHARTER
FLIGHT, WHICH LEFT AT 0900 HOURS, BECAUSE CUSTOMS
OFFICIALS HAD DISCOVERED ADDRESSES OF SOVIETS CON-
CEALED IN GREENBERG'S FLIGHT BAG. THESE LISTS WERE
CONFISCATED. CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES THEN REQUESTED THAT
GREENBERGS SUBMIT TO A PERSONAL SEARCH. GREENBERGS
AND CONSOFF WERE ESCORTED TO PRIVATE ROOMS WHERE
GREENBERGS WERE REQUESTED TO DISROBE. THE SOVIETS
DISCOVERED A ROLL OF DEVELOPED FILM (39 FRAMES)
WRAPPED AROUND THE ARCH OF MR GREENBERG'S FOOT,
AND IN ADDITION, HE DISCOVERED IN HIS SUIT COAT
POCKET A 23-PAGE TYPEWRITTEN ARTICLE IN RUSSIAN ON
A SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL TOPIC, WHICH MR GREENBERG
THOUGHT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED IN THE WEST.
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THERE WERE ALSO LISTS OF ADDRESSES OF SOVIET REFUSE-
NIKS AND CRYPTIC NOTES ON VARIOUS INCIDENTS OF HAR-
ASSMENT, ACCORDING TO MR GREENBERG. MRS GREENBERG
HAD CONCEALED IN A SANITARY NAPKIN SHE WAS WEARING
A TYPEWRITTEN LETTER IN ENGLISH, WRITTEN BY A REFUSE-
NIK, AND AN UNDEVELOPED ROLL OF INSTAMATIC FILM
IN A CASSETTE. EACH OF THESE ITEMS WAS
ENUMERATED ON AN AKT, WHICH BOTH MR AND MRS GREEN-
BERG REFUSED TO SIGN. BEFORE THE GREENBERGS WERE
PERMITTED TO LEAVE, A STATEMENT WAS READ TO THEM
IN RUSSIAN, TRANSLATED BY CONSOFF, STATING THAT
THEY HAD BROKEN SOVIET LAW, AND THAT THEY WOULD NEVER
BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SOVIET UNION AGAIN. THEY
DEPARTED FROM MOSCOW AT 1730 HOURS.
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